
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6523

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY OF FIRE CHIEFS AT CERTAIN STATE FACILITIES.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes the UConn, Southbury Training School, or Connecticut Valley Hospital fire chief, or anyone who serves in these capacities, the officer-in-charge when responding to a fire, service call, or other emergency in his or her jurisdiction. The UConn fire chief oversees both the UConn Storrs campus and UConn Health Center.

The officer-in-charge has the authority to:

1. control and direct emergency activities at the scene;
2. order anyone to leave any building or place near such fire, service call, or emergency to protect him or her from injury;
3. temporarily blockade any public highway, street, or private right-of way;
4. enter any building where a fire is in progress or near, or where there is reasonable cause to believe a fire is in progress, for the purpose of extinguishing the fire or preventing its spread;
5. generally inspect all buildings (except inside a private dwelling), structures, or other places within his or her jurisdiction, in order to prevent fires;
6. order disengagement or decoupling of certain vehicles (e.g., train) to extinguish a fire or preventing its spread; and
7. take command of any industrial fire brigade or fire chief when they have been called (CGS § 7-313e).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24 Nay 0 (03/21/2013)